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22 APR 2003

Richard A. Steinberg
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, Virginia 22102

Dear Mr. Steinberg:

This is in response to your letter received 07 April 2003 inquiring about the status of U.S. patent application 10/049,436 filed 12 February 2002. The application has been processed by the U.S. Designated/Elected Office and a decision on the declaration of the inventors was issued on 21 May 2002. A copy of that decision is attached herewith for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Nguyễn Ngọc Hô
Paralegal Specialist
PCT Legal Office

Tel: (703) 308-6508

Enclosure:

- Copy of decision of 21 may 2002